

DDI-867-74

21 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

SUBJECT : Initiation of Operational Phase of NOIWON

1. Your memorandum of 15 March 1974 informs the heads of the organizations participating in the NOIWON test that unless objections are raised, the NOIWON system will become operational on 1 April. By this memorandum, I am registering an objection and am recommending an alternate course of action.

2. My major concern is that this method of establishing an operational system is in effect a pre-emptive action presenting the intelligence community with a fait accompli. You will recall that the proposal to test the NOIWON was presented to USIB and that there was considerable discussion before the test was approved. Because the decision to go operational is more important than the decision to test NOIWON, I believe that the matter should be returned to the USIB before this step is taken. More importantly, making the NOIWON operational seems to imply approval of the publication and dissemination of at least one new intelligence product (NOIWOB)-- and perhaps others--to consumers outside the intelligence community.

3. I recommend that this matter be put on the agenda for an early USIB meeting and that action to make NOIWON operational not be taken pending the outcome of the USIB meeting. At the USIB meeting, you should arrange for a full report of the results of the test, what has been learned, and what precisely is involved in your proposal to go operational. On that basis, USIB would be able to make a more informed judgment of the merits of NOIWON and its relation to broader questions regarding the watch and alert functions.

EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Acting CIA Member, USIB

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DDI/EWProctor/tb (21 March 1974)

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